

NIGHT SHELTER IN PARIS

PLACES WHERE HOMELESS PEOPLE

Men Get Only a Supper of Bread, but Women Get Soup and Bread, and May Have a Little More to Eat, and a Little Warmth for All-A-Genuine Charity.

Under the heading of "Free Night Shelter and Bread in Paris," the *Catholic World* for November gives a very interesting account of the great interest and efforts which have been aroused within the past nine years in that city for the relief of the homeless and hungry of both sexes. The first modern institution of the kind in France was started in Marseilles, on Christmas day, 1872, under the name of "Cuvre Hospitalière." Six years after the good it had done and could do had been demonstrated, a beginning was made in Paris, where it was opened there in June, 1878, at 59 Rue de Tournesville, by the Society of "l'Oeuvre de l'Hospitalité du Nuit." It is lay in its character, strictly Catholic and religious.

It re-leaves men only, has a Board of twenty-six members, and is presided over by the President. It holds a general meeting once a year. It is entirely supported by voluntary contributions. The public, not in Paris alone, but throughout France, has generously responded by sums large and small to appeals for the relief of the poor. The work of this charity is valuable and unanimous support. The painter Meissonier set up in 1884, upon the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of his birth, a fund for the relief of the poor, and gave four-fifths of the net proceeds to the *Gouvernement*, and the remaining fifth to the *Association*. The *Association* was constituted as was recognized by Governmental decision, and the *Gouvernement* has since decided entitling it to a high place in public estimation, carries with it certain valuable advantages, and has been since its organization opened after the first one; one at 14 Boulevard de Valenciennes, named *Maison des Lameuses*, and another at 11, rue de Valenciennes, named *Maison des Lameuses*.

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after helping a little to clean and fix the premises, each man went off to look for his own work. The shelter was open Dec. 31, 1885, and for about six months of 1886. The *Evre* gave "21,668 one night shelters to the poor, and 1,000 day shelters. The discipline or morality had been confirmed. The average percentage of night shelter afforded was 100 per cent. The average according to the report of 1885, the latest at hand, the nationalities of the sheltered were 45,109 of whom 10,000 were French, 10,000 Italian, 11 Asiatic, 50 American, and 24 from Oceania. Day laborers were the most numerous of those who sought shelter, 10,000. There were 100 men, clerks, artists, teachers, and members of the liberal professions, among these 10,000. The 10,000 were 10,000. Only 10,000 followed no business. The total recipient of the shelter was 21,668. For four years, inclusive of 1885, the Pope has formally sent his blessing to the 10,000. The 10,000 are the recipients of the charity of the refuge. The Cardinal

general meeting of 1868. In 1862 thirty French Bishops acted in their felicitations and expressions of sympathy. The same year the French Republic in Paris has been followed in other cities of France and of the Continent.

On the 27th of November, in Paris had its inception through the Société Philanthropique, founded in 1781. Also obtained, as far back as 1781, the term "Refuge" for the name of an institution of public utility. It opened its doors on the 1st of January, 1863, at the Rue St. Jacques. One day M. Emile Thomas dropped in, was much pleased with what he saw, and by his will left 200,000 francs to the Society. The house was accordingly named after him. Next day, Mme. Camille Favre, gave 120,000 francs for the extension of the charity. The next day, the 3rd of January, 1863, the first night refugees came in the Rue Labat and another in the Rue de Grimsy, which has been thus attached a free dispensary for children, and the 4th of January, 1863, the first night refugees came in the Rue de Grimsy, where medical advice and medicines can be had three times a week. The three night refuges are situated in the Rue de Grimsy over the street door, harbor homeless women and their children for three nights, and give

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